

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 8 without my signature.

While I appreciate the Legislature's efforts to reform our broken health care system and applaud the hard work that has gone into AB 8, I cannot sign this bill. AB 8 would put more pressure on an already broken system.

AB 8 does not achieve coverage for all, a critical step needed to reduce health care costs for everyone. Comprehensive reform cannot leave Californians vulnerable to loss or denial of coverage when they need it most. Finally, to be sustainable, comprehensive reform cannot place the majority of the financial burden on any one segment of our economy. Unfortunately, AB 8 falls short on all three accounts.

California needs a financially sustainable health care reform plan that shares responsibility, covers all Californians and keeps our emergency rooms open and operating. I cannot support reform efforts that fall short of these goals and threaten to weaken our already broken system.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger